



FEB 05 2010

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
COUNCIL ON SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION
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The Council's mission is to advise and assist the Commissioner of Environmental Protection on local issues concerning conserving and protecting the land, water and other natural resources of the State in order to preserve and enhance quality of life for present and future generations.

**COMMENTS OF THE
Connecticut Council on Soil and Water Conservation
to the
Department of Environmental Protection
February 4, 2010**

***Support of
Stream Flow Standards and Regulations pursuant to Public Act 05-142***

The Council on Soil and Water Conservation (Council) Supports the Proposed Stream Flow Standards and Regulations pursuant to Public Act 05-142, An Act Concerning the Minimum Water Flow Regulations. Please note that some members and constituents are concerned that the regulations lack specificity where agricultural uses are concerned.

It is well known that updated stream flow regulations that, (1) cover all of Connecticut's streams and rivers, and, (2) reflect Connecticut's water needs today, are long overdue. Balancing the needs of today's manufacturers and industry, with the needs of fish and wildlife, and further, with our citizens' drinking water supplies, was a monumental task charged to the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) by Connecticut's legislature. The Council commends DEP's efforts in including science-based data putting the proposed regulations together and its' work with a wide and diverse coalition in the development of said regulations. The Council also commends DEP in providing the phasing-in of certain compliance requirements of the regulations. This will allow those that may have new [reporting, etc] requirements pursuant to the new regulation, municipalities among others, to better assess water planning efforts.

We urge you to move these regulations forward, with consideration of the needs and requests made by the agricultural community. Moving these regulations forward in an expeditious manner will begin the proper protection of the quality and quantity of streams and rivers throughout the State of Connecticut.

Please contact Suellen Kozey McCuin, Council Executive Director at 860-767-9594 or by email at ct.cswc@att.net

Thank you.